GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2801
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINES
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote traditional system of medicines in view of the adverse effects of allopathic medicines;

(b) if so,the details thereof;and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes,Sir.

(b) & (c): The Government has established a separate Department of Ayurveda,Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani,Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) to ensure the optimal development and propagation of these systems of health care.The Department has over the years,developed a broad Institutional frame work to carry out the activities in the field of AYUSH consisting of
(i) two regulatory bodies,
(ii) four Apex Research Councils,
(iii) six Apex Educational Institutions and
(iv) two Apex Laboratories.

Further departments like Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR),Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR),Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) also undertake focused research programmes related to specific aspects of AYUSH.A National Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate activities relating to conservation,cultivation,marketing support and export promotion and policy making for the development of the medicinal plants sector. The Department of AYUSH is implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which grant-in-aids are given to the States and Central Government organizations,autonomous bodies, private organizations pertaining to Ayurveda,Yoga and Naturopathy,Unani,Siddha and Homoeopathy for overall development of these systems.

Mainstreaming of AYUSH under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and health care delivery system of the country has long been a major policy objective of the Department, so as to meet the unmet health needs of the Indian population. Towards this end, under the NRHM, AYUSH facilities are being set up in PHCs and CHCs which are being manned by qualified AYUSH physicians.